AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A resin-coated sand comprising:

a refractory granular aggregate, and

a coating layer, which is formed on the surface of the granular aggregate, obtained by coating with a thermosetting resin and a thermoplastic resin,

wherein the thermoplastic resin can be at least partially removed from the resin-coated sand by heating the resin-coated sand at 200°C for 1 to 7 hours.

2. (Currently amended) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1, ~~which~~ wherein the coating layer is formed by coating the surface of the granular aggregate with the thermosetting resin and further coating with the thermoplastic resin.

3. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 2, wherein the coating layer comprises:

a thermosetting resin layer containing the thermosetting resin, with which the surface of the granular aggregate is coated, and

a thermoplastic resin layer containing the thermoplastic resin, with which the surface of the thermosetting resin layer is coated.

4. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein, the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene glycol, polyamide, polymethyl methacrylate and polystyrene.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of the thermoplastic resin added is from 0.01 to 1.0 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of the granular aggregate.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a particle size of the granular aggregate is not less than 10 μm and not more than 300 μm.

9. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the thermosetting resin is at least one of phenolic resin, melamine resin and urea resin.

10. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a softening point of the thermosetting resin is not lower than 70°C and not higher than 130°C.

11. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of thermosetting resin added is from 1.0 to 4.0 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of the granular aggregate.

12. (New) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the thermoplastic resin has a mass-average molecular weight (relative to polystyrene standards) as measured by gel permeation chromatography within a range from 2,000 to 10,000.

13. (New) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising calcium stearate as a flow improver.

14. (New) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising metal powder, wherein a metal of the metal powder is at least one of iron, copper, zinc, aluminum and nickel.

15. (New) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising metal oxide, wherein a metal of the metal powder is at least one of iron, copper, zinc, aluminum, nickel, cobalt and titanium.

16. (New) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising as a silane coupling agent at least one of aminosilane and epoxysilane.

17. (New) A resin-coated sand comprising:

a refractory granular aggregate; and

a coating layer formed on the surface of the granular aggregate,

wherein the coating layer consists essentially of a thermosetting resin layer coating formed on an outer surface of the granular aggregate and a thermoplastic resin layer coating formed on an outer surface of the thermosetting resin layer.